## SUPPORT FOR THE AMENDMENT

This Amendment amends the specification; and amends Claims 1-6, 8-11 and 13-15. Support for the amendments is found in the specification and claims as originally filed. In particular, support for Claim 14 is found in Claim 8 and in the specification at least at page 14, line 9 to page 15, line 13. No new matter would be introduced by entry of this amendment.

Upon entry of these amendments, Claims 1-17 will be pending in this application. Claims 1, 2, 8 and 10 are independent.

## REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

Applicants respectfully request entry of the foregoing and reexamination and reconsideration of the application, as amended, in light of the remarks that follow.

The disclosure is objected to because of various informalities. In addition, Claims 1-17 are objected to because of various informalities. Furthermore, Claims 10, 11 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. To obviate the objections and rejections, the specification and claims are amended.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication that Claims 1-17 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph and the objections set forth in the Office Action. Office Action at page 3.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that the application is in condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully request favorable consideration and prompt allowance of the application.

Application No. 09/964,460 Reply to Office Action of December 9, 2003

Should the Examiner believe that anything further is necessary in order to place the application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicants undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND, MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.

Corwen Vaul Elmbach

Norman F. Oblon Attorney of Record Registration No. 24,618

Corwin P. Umbach, Ph.D. Registration No. 40,211

Tel: (703) 413-3000 Fax: (703) 413 -2220 (OSMMN 08/03) NFL:CPU:asan